

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 14121

FOLLOWING MSG SENT ACTION SAIGON, INFO BIEN HOA, CAN THO, DANANG,
7 NOV 74 BEING REPEATED TO YOU

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NHA TRANG 0689

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT VS

SUBJECT: NATIONAL RECONCILIATION FORCE CONDUCTS ORGANIZATIONAL
MEETING IN NHA TRANG

1. ON THE AFTERNOON OF NOVEMBER 5 AT THE LONG SONG BUDDHIST PAGODA
IN NHA TRANG CITY, THE CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL
RECONCILIATION FORCE LED BY SENATOR VU VAN MAU, HELD A CEREMONY TO
INAUGURATE THE ORGANIZATION OF THE LOCAL KHANH HOA/NHA TRANG BRANCH
OF THE MOVEMENT AND TO PREVENT ITS RECENTLY SELECTED EXECUTIVE
COUNCIL.

2. AT 1645 HOURS, A CROWD OF APPROXIMATELY 1500-2000 BUDDHIST
FOLLOWERS GATHERED IN RESPONSE TO LEAFLETS WIDELY DISTRIBUTED
THROUGHOUT NHA TRANG THE PREVIOUS DAY HERALDING THE EVENT. BANNERS,
TORCHES, AND MULTI-COLORED BALLOONS LENT A FESTIVE AIR TO THE EVENT
WHILE PIGEONS SYMBOLIZING THE PEACEFUL QUEST OF THE MOVEMENT
FLUTTERED ABOVE THE HEADS OF THE CROWD. ON THE PODIUM SAT SENATOR
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MAU WHO WAS ACCOMPANIED FROM SAIGON BY MR. VO DINH CUONG, LAY

LEADER OF THE BUDDHIST YOUTH ASSOCIATION, AS WELL AS LE DINH DUYEN, DOAN MAI, TU DO MINH, MAI NGOC DUOC, AND PHAM XUAN HUY--MEMBERS OF THE LOWER HOUSE NATIONALIST SOCIALIST BLOC. THEY WERE JOINED BY VENERABLE THICH THIEN BINH, AN QUANG LEADER FOR THIS AREA, ALONG WITH THE LOCAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE NRF TO INCLUDE ITS FIRST CHAIRMAN, MR. UNG TRUNK, A BUDDHIST TEACHER. TRANG VAN TUNG AND TRAN VAN SON, LOWER HOUSE REPRESENTATIVES FROM KHANH HOA ACTIVELY PARTICIPATED IN THE PROCEEDINGS AS THEY DID DURING FATHER THANH'S PACEM RALLY LAST MONTH.

3. THE TWO HOUR PROGRAM CONSISTED OF ASSAULTS ON THE PERFORMANCE AND INTEGRITY OF THE PRESIDENT AND HIS ADMINISTRATION AND EXHORTATIONS TO UNITE BEHIND THE PROTEST MOVEMENT IN A SPIRIT OF LOVE AND RECONCILIATION. LOWER HOUSE REPRESENTATIVE THUNG MADE A PRELIMINARY SPEECH WHICH CLAIMED THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS UNFIT TO LEAD THE COUNTRY BECAUSE OF THE INVOLVEMENT OF BOTH HE AND HIS ADMINISTRATION IN CORRUPTION; THEREFORE HE SHOULD IMMEDIATELY RESIGN. VENERABLE BINH FOLLOWED WITH A STATEMENT PRAISING THE POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES OF THE NRF, PROMISING HIS SUPPORT FOR THEIR CAUSE. SENATOR MAU DELIVERED THE KEYNOTE ADDRESS TAKING THE GOVERNMENT TO TASK FOR UNNECESSARILY PERPETUATING THE WAR, PERMITTING THE DETERIORATION OF THE ECONOMY, CORRUPTING THE YOUTH, AND TEARING DOWN THE VERY FABRIC OF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE SOCIETY. HE CALLED FOR EARLY NEGOTIATIONS TO BRING ABOUT PEACE AND THE RESTORATION OF PEACEFUL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE WARRING SIDES. IF NECESSARY, THE SENATOR SAID, THE BUDDHIST FLAG COULD PROVIDE THE SYMBOL OF THE REUNIFIED COUNTRY. DURING A QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD FOLLOWING HIS SPEECH SENATOR MAU AFFIRMED THAT HE CONSIDERS THE NRF AS A

"RD FORCE" STATING THAT "IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE PARIS AGREEMENT, THE 3RD ELEMENT IS THAT WHICH LOVES PEACE, AND WE ARE THE MAJORITY WHO WANT PEACE*" IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THE NRF WOULD HAVE THE SUPPORT OF THE ARMY IN CASE THE NRF ASSUMED NATIONAL LEADERSHIP IF THE PRESIDENT RESIGNED, THE VISIBLY SHAKEN SENATOR RESPONDED OBLIQUELY THAT A NATIONWIDE ELECTION WOULD DETERMINE THE NEW LEADER OF THE COUNTRY.

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4. THE PRESENTATION RECEIVED A MIXED RESPONSE. THE RECONCILIATION THEME, AN ABSTRACTION FOR WHICH THE PEOPLE HAVE LITTLE HISTORICAL EXPERIENCE, HAD REMOTE APPEAL COMPARED TO THE MORE TANGIBLE ISSUE OF CORRUPTION TO WHICH THE AUDIENCE REACTED WITH ENTHUSIASTIC APPLAUSE. FURTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MEETINGS ARE PLANNED FOR PHAN RANG ON NOV 6, PHANMXHIET ON NOV 7, AND BINH TUY ON NOV 8.

SPEARS

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